



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held March 3, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into record for Supervisor Yaroslavsky:

“On February 24, 2004, President Bush called for an amendment to the United States Constitution banning same-sex marriage. However, laws governing marriage have always been a matter for the states to decide and, in fact, various states are grappling with this issue at this time. In California, Superior Courts have begun to consider the issue of same-sex marriage and the State Supreme Court will be asked to rule at the end of this week. Given these facts, an amendment to the United States Constitution is unnecessary and represents a diversion of precious time and resources that would be better used to address the more pressing issues facing our nation. Indeed, this issue does not rise to the level of a Federal constitutional amendment.

”I therefore recommend that the Board of Supervisors express its opposition to an amendment to the United States Constitution that would have the effect of prohibiting same-sex marriages nationwide.”

Lorri L. Jean, Chief Executive Officer, representing the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center; Eddie Gutierrez, representing the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation; Jason Lyon, representing the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Gay and Lesbian Caucus; Rusty Millar, representing the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council; L.J. Carusone, Friederich Koenig, Jerry Johnson, and Yvonne Michelle Autry addressed the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Knabe made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, that Supervisor Yaroslavsky's aforementioned recommendation be continued one week to March 9, 2004, to allow other interested persons to address the Board. Said motion failed to carry by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Knabe and Antonovich; Noes: Supervisors Molina and Yaroslavsky; Abstentions: Supervisor Burke.

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After further discussion, on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Molina, duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Molina, Burke, and Yaroslavsky; Noes: Supervisors Antonovich and Knabe, the Board of Supervisors expressed its opposition to an amendment to the United States Constitution that would have the effect of prohibiting same-sex marriages nationwide.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor

Chief Administrative Officer

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